

American studies majors confront deans

By LINDA CAYTON

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partments and fear that such a move would needlessly specialize the American Studies program. They did not, however, rule out the possibility.

Dean Whidden also discussed with majors the problems of hiring additional professors. According to the dean, plans for an American Studies professor had been included in the request for appropriations presented to the General Assembly. Due to expected cutbacks, however, Dean Whidden expressed doubt that any new professors could be hired for next year.

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organization, which is the nation's oldest honorary scholastic fraternity.

MWC faculty members who belong to the organization have been notified that a petition for membership will be favorably considered at the Council meeting next fall. Approval for such a charter requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the chapters represented at the Council meeting, which will be held in September at Indiana University. A majority of the 184 chapters of the Society must also be represented in the vote.

The Committee on Qualifications required an extensive report on every facet of MWC. This self-evaluation took approximately three years to prepare and was submitted in October, 1968. Last March, members of the Committee visited the campus. Mary Washington College was one of nineteen colleges and universities visited by the Committee last year.

Charters are granted to members of Phi Beta Kappa on the liberal arts faculty of an institution, authorizing them to organize a chapter of the post-graduate college of arts and sciences. In the future, the program will mark the success of MWC's effort, first initiated in 1964, to attain membership in the Society.

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Mimi Hearne . . . pushing the new constitution

Senate committees considering "rathskellar" and no hours

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New constitution will revamp SGA offices

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The Social Affairs Chairman will make all Student Association bookings and may request formation of Ad Hoc committees concerning social affairs.

The revised Constitution also provides for the creation of the office of National Affairs Chairman who will replace the Senator-at-Large on exec cabinet. This chairman will serve as VASG and NSA co-ordinator.

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FORUM

editorial

A beginning

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The American studies majors are attempting to achieve through their actions a goal that until now has only been talked about; that is, student power in the decision making processes of the academic realm of the college.

The psychology, history, and political science and economics departments presently have student representatives elected by the department's majors attending the departmental meetings. But in none of these cases do students have anything close to equal voice with professors in determining policy.

American studies majors, in cooperation with Dr. Thomas, program director and sole American studies professor since the departure of Mr. Bernstein, have proposed an outline of courses they would like to see initiated. They have proven that students have the capability to make responsible decisions concerning their program of studies.

If departmental status is granted to the American studies "program", it is conceivable that, as a result of this cooperation that now exists between students and professor, students would obtain an equal voice in running the department. The success of such a department could serve as a model for the reorganization of all other academic departments.

It is sad that the deans have taken such a negative attitude toward the proposals of the American studies representatives. We hope that this attitude has not dampened the enthusiasm of those students who seek an improved academic program and that they will continue their efforts until success is achieved.

B.H.



feedback

Abortion not a "rosy picture"

To the Editor:

I, like the girl who underwent a therapeutic abortion (re. Student discusses abortion.) wish to withhold my name from this letter. I, too, was in a situation where I felt that the best thing for me to do was to have an abortion. However, I knew none of the nonchalance or lightness that she mentioned. I think it is disgusting that she should take such a blasé attitude—"I'm just really glad. And I can joke about it, too, and even when it was happening . . . and we kind of joked about it. . . We just took it really lightly heartedly." I completely fail to see the humor.

It is nothing to be proud of, no matter what your morals may be, to be so irresponsible as to get yourself pregnant when you're

unmarried. Her rosy picture of what it's like to have an abortion came undoubtedly from a warped mind. No wonder she convinced the psychiatrist so easily! Whether a fetus is human life according to your beliefs, at the very least, it is the origin of human life. A sperm is not human life. An ovum is not human life. But a fetus is. Only the fetus by itself will develop into the fully-formed baby. Should one contemplate abortion, she ought to realize the gravity of what she is considering, for it is simply—life or death. That abortion was one of the most mentally traumatic things I have ever been through, not what you would call "really great" at all. I will always wonder whether I did the best thing for that unborn individual. It was like playing God making that

decision. I may always wonder about the unborn person.

The fact that this girl actually went out "to celebrate" that night is incredibly heartless to me. I didn't want her to seem guilty, but a more serious tone would have been more appropriate in the interview. I felt she was trying to sell some new improved cop-out, in addition to putting us on how simply delightful the abortion can be. It causes a great deal of soul-searching from which you may gain incomparable feeling for the value of life. A sincere person can never be sure she made the right decision. She can only hope. Judging from the melodrama she described in the recovery room and her flippant recollection of the entire episode, that chick really lost out. My condolences and pity!

A Junior

Student infers Bullet obsessed with sex

Dear Editor,

I have often been disturbed by articles which have appeared in the Bullet, but never so much as by two articles which were contained in the January 12, 1970 issue. The articles to which I refer are "Student discusses

abortion" and "Understanding Orgasm." The "so what" attitude on the part of the girl who had the abortion ("We just took it really light-heartedly") juxtaposed to the article on orgasm conveys the idea of sexual pre-

occupation on the part of MWC students. This is not true. I would be ashamed to have to answer any person, especially one outside the college, who asked me to explain the relevance of these two articles to the pursuit of intellectual enlightenment.

Alumna calls Bullet misuse of student funds

Dear Editor:

I read of college students being either apathetic or involved. After looking at a recent copy of the Bullet, I conclude that the students of M.W.C. must be apathetic, non-readers, or possessed of enough intelligence to realize that you are trying to arouse a storm of protest over the misuse of funds to run a student paper.

If this paper is a reflection of the student body, I would think before encouraging or permitting a daughter to attend. If it is representative of a small staff, I believe that it should be supported through advertising and subscriptions. A college such as M.W.C. claims to be should not be represented by such a newspaper.

I feel that neither of these articles belongs in a college newspaper whose primary function should be that of relating campus activities and developing a social awareness that centers around our position as students. I trust that in the future a more specific discretion will be applied in the selection of articles suitable for appearance in the Bullet.

Sincerely yours,
Sharlene Moison '73

This paper is sent to me as a gift (I have never been billed for it). And as the recipient, I suppose that I should be grateful. I do use the large brown envelope that it comes in. Now that the Baltimore papers are on strike, I sometimes use it to line the garbage can. I must admit, though, that its coverage of that is about as inadequate as your coverage of campus news.

Usually I can read of national news in a paper with broader circulation, I do not depend on the Bullet for such coverage.

I believe that I can sacrifice the brown paper envelope, and the stamp which is being used to send me my copy. Perhaps you can delete my name from your list, and do your crusading elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Helen P. Voris, '38

WUS drives on

Dear Editor:

It seems to me there is much talk on MWC campus concerning the conditions that some fellow humans live with. But is it our place to take it upon ourselves to step in and make donations or provide these people with a certain income? Can we really make ourselves believe that these people are so different from ourselves that they have no pride?

Can any problem such as poverty, and the conditions which thrive as a result of poverty be solved by our generous Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts and donations? Shouldn't we try to preserve the recipients integrity rather than donating merely for recognition of our generosity?

Self-help is the World University Service. Your contribution which is matched by the recipient of the funds will help buy the utensils and facilities which are vital for Higher Education. Fifty Cents will provide a year's supply of paper and three balanced meals for a university student in Latin America, Asia, or Africa. Donations may be made at the C Shoppe or to your senator.

Absent student sees campus progressing

To the Editor,

Last year I transferred from Mary Washington to attend a large, co-ed, private, New England college of music for my junior year. To keep up with events on campus, I subscribe to the BULLET. I feel compelled to tell you of my surprise and delight of your January 12 issue (Women are appreciated but may not enter). Your candid presentation of women's rights was very informative.

From the articles, I infer that the college is not, happily, the same as when I left it. It seems that a few of my reasons for being dissatisfied have dissipated

(the college attempting to act in loco parentis, the artificial atmosphere of an all girls' school). My leave of absence has also made me appreciate things I didn't fully appreciate until I left (the honor system, the high academic level).

I believe that the Bullet has been instrumental in a change towards a more progressive spirit and I look forward to living and working under this new spirit next year.

Sincerely,
Gayle A. Wahl

Thank you,
Cheri Burke

Step into the 70's

by Yuri McCarthy

I'm really tired of students who sit by and say, "We don't need any more changes." Well, believe me, if some people hadn't gotten off their asses and changed things, we'd all be going to the Dean of Women to file our permits to ride bicycles or travel in airplanes. And we'd all have our lights out by 11:00. Our meals would be compulsory and presided over by a junior or senior at each table. Dig it — this was the scene back in 1942.

If you have ever talked to anyone who goes to school in the evil decadent North you know how behind-the-times our rules here are. Surely if schools can manage to survive in cities where crime rates are higher than in this great burg where we are located, Mary Wash could. I seriously doubt that we'd all be raped in our beds or that the halls would become thoroughfares for droves of criminals and ill-intentioned men if we had keys, and no hours (just like at home, I'm sure you remember how it was).

If our study areas, halls, and miraculously our rooms on occasion, are public areas why are they not open to the herds of people in town? Seemingly, if it is public anyone could just wait up and sit down. Then there's the confiscation of private

articles (which tend to mess the public areas) which are being removed — no, I don't mean the usual stealing, for a list of booty is posted, so you can readily tell whether it was a thief or lo — Mrs. Lipman busily at her job. Beware, your drying rack may disappear.

It seems that some people are pretty disappointed in their grades. Upperclassmen know that with certain professors, cuts, dress, socio-political views, and associations can markedly drop your grade. Some professors are p.o.'d at their YET rating — the truth hurts. And some professors seem to give out grades which are mathematically questionable; i.e., if it's not 100% B, then it's a C and 98% B work won't get you a B. So, freshmen, take heed and don't blow your 60% exams.

I figure it's about time someone said something about the rotten classes we're forced to sit through due to the cut system. If a professor is boring, inept, or irrelevant, sitting in his class to receive a mark in his attendance book is a waste of time. Some professors take role daily — yes, like in kindergarten — to insure high class attendance. Given no "cut system," just free choice, no one would show up. Is there a lack of communication?

It's really refreshing, on the

other hand, to go to stimulating lectures and get relevant, fair, and unambiguous tests. If you have a good professor, tell him you appreciate him and furthermore TALK TO HIM.

There seems to be a horrendous lack of rapport between students and faculty here. At a lot of other schools, professors have students come to their houses, talk about extra-curricular topics, and develop friendships with them. How many times have you done this? Off hand, I can think of few professors here who have extended this opportunity to students. Maybe students should start taking the first step; some professors know a lot more than what comes over the lectern.

Perhaps the sophomores and freshmen don't know, but the present junior classes do — gooder freshmen foiled a campus-wide vote to abolish dress regulations. You know — a dress everywhere but in the dorm, ACL, and on campus. It was TRADITION to wear a dress. Believe me, someone worked to change that rule, along with the others. Now the Senate is about to start work on proposals such as no hours and self-scheduling exams. You — do SOMETHING — write a group letter, or talk to your senator or Kathi O'Neill — but work for your cause. Let's step into the 1970's. After all, they're here.

It's time to wake up

It is a BULLET tradition that a new editor include in her first issue a "Here I stand" editorial proclaiming her intentions for the coming term.

For the past two years it has been the policy of the BULLET to propose and encourage necessary alterations of the established order at MWC. These proposals are usually discussed at length, but in very few cases have they produced action on the part of anyone in the college community.

I hope to see the pages of the BULLET filled this semester with reports of action taken on these proposals and the results of that action.

"We've been thinking about tomorrow . . . What's the difference if we don't wake up?" When viewing the precarious world situation, we realize the grave significance of this statement. Problems of over population, poverty, hunger, war, environmental pollution, ect. fill our minds until our attitudes become hopelessly pessimistic. But the statement is not necessarily an announcement of impending doom. It must be biewed as an urgent warning that the hour is late and the time for action has come.

We at MWC have been "thinking about tomorrow," but unless we begin now to act upon these thoughts we will wake up to find the institution a museum piece of a new era.

MWC has entered the '70's by catching up with the '60's. It is true that the decision to co-educate is a major step forward for the college. But coeducation is still only a vision and not a reality at MWC. Action must be taken to implement the decision. Changes must be made in order to make Mary Washington College a progressive school which will continue to attract well qualified students of both sexes. Both academic and social reforms are currently being discussed by all segments of the academic community. The replacement of SGA by a student-faculty senate which would make all major decisions concerning the school, the substitution of the 4-1-4 system for the present semester calendar, the abolishment of the honor system, the elimination the remaining social rules — these are all ideas which should by now be reaching the stage of final decision. We have far to go, and time is running short.

Sartre said, "There is no reality except in action." The BULLET can urge change, but only through the concerted efforts of the entire academic community can this change be achieved.

We must stop dreaming and begin to act; for only then will we be able to wake up to a new era.

B.H.

feedback

(from FEEDBACK, page 4)

MWC: bordello of south?

Reprinted with permission from the South Boston (Va.) Gazette-Virginian, Dec. 24, 1969.

Time was when parents could send their daughter to Mary Washington College at Fredericksburg and after four years get back a prim, polite and proper schoolma'am. But no more. Mary Washington is now an avant garde institution where hippies flower, students march in Vietnam Moratorium

demonstrations and whiskey is allowed to be consumed and kept by the girls in their dormitory rooms. They may also entertain their male friends in their bedrooms.

Mary Washington may not be more a motel or hotel for its paying guests than any other girls school these days: it just seems so. All kinds of pretty shocking news comes out of the school about the new day of

permissiveness granted to the girls by the administration and the board of visitors.

As we noted in the case recently at the College of William and Mary where students rebelled because the school administration turned thumbs down on entertaining girls in men's dormitories at all hours, this is a tax-supported institution. Our feeling is that if the Mary Washington administration is so morally corrupt that it cannot offer a decent place for a lady to reside and study, the state authorities should take action to relieve the administrators of their duty. No amount of bellywash about student academic and personal freedom can erase the fact that Mary Washington is fast becoming a bordello and a haven for women of loose morals to retire to, in the name of going to college to get an education. Off with the heads of the administration, fire the board of visitors and let's return respectability to the school at Fredericksburg.

and idealism in both verbal expression and in visual effect.

The continuity of message and the creativity demonstrated to me a real mastery of the art of communication.

I am thrilled that the BULLET staff has the time, talent, and money to produce such works which can be to the inspiration and enrichment of all the students at the college.

Sincerely,
Liz Vantrease, '70

Vantrease praises Bullet

Dear Editor:

I think the BULLET reached a new peak in the magazine supplement to the December 16 issue.

The magazine seemed to represent the culmination of all the creative experimentation the BULLET staff has been doing for the past few years. Through innovation in layout, photography, literary style, and graphics, the magazine became an artistic whole which successfully portrayed the spirits of pragmatism

THE BULLET

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Signed letters to the editor are invited from all readers. The BULLET will print all letters within the limits of space and subject to the laws of libel. Letters should be brought to the BULLET office no later than Thursday before the Monday of publication.

The BULLET reserves the right to edit all contributions for grammatical and technical errors.

Subscriptions are \$4.00 per year. Write The BULLET, Box 1115, College Station, Fredericksburg, Va. 22401.

An American in Moscow

by Ann Moran

An opportunity to discover what, besides vodka and Tschai-kovsky, represents the character of Russian people was given to Gail Herzog when her family moved to Moscow in 1968, as her father assumed his post as U. S. Naval Attache.

Americans

"carefully watched"

Living in the diplomatic community of about 125 families, not far from the Kremlin, presented a problem in itself, according to Gail. Politically, the community is carefully watched, which in turn tends to set the community aside from the mainstream of the daily business and social life in Moscow.

For better or for worse, Gail pointed out that the Americans living in the diplomatic community had a different view of Russia than the American tourist. "They (Russian citizens) are very eager to show tourists everything — parts of the city, monuments and so forth," Gail said. However, when she did her own exploring of some of the same places in Moscow, Gail found that the attitude of the citizens was more reserved, but "most of the people were friendly and we got good service."

Gail feels that the "closed" nature of the diplomatic com-

munity offered little opportunity to establish well-founded friendships with the Russians of her age.

There was no opportunity for Gail to go to school in Russia because the Anglo-American school for children of the families in the diplomatic community did not include the senior grades, and because of the social and political barriers erected around the community, possibility of enrolling in a Russian school did not exist.

Instead, Gail completed her senior year in Switzerland and stayed with her family in Moscow during her summer vacations in 1968 and 1969 as well as during the past Christmas holidays.

Gail had applied to Moscow University but was not accepted. She explained that the American student who applies to the University directly from a school in the U. S. has a much better chance of acceptance than the American student living in Moscow's diplomatic community. Very few of the American students in Moscow are from the diplomatic community. Her general impressions of the

various aspects of Russian life seem to confirm some of the differences from American life, which are usually attributed to political causes. In other instances Gail's discovery of the differences in the ways of life simply revealed some of the life styles basic to the Russian character.

Youth support
black market

Gail affirmed that many young people in Russia desire to learn about the "free world." "Voice of America" has a sizable audience. The black market thrives among the young, she said. Tom Jones' "Dellilah", a black market item, was one of the most popular songs last summer when Gail was in Moscow, as was Mary Hopkins' "Those Were the Days" — an understandable hit since the tune was Russian before it was Lennon and McCartney.

However, Gail emphasized that Russians love music of all kinds, and those youths who listen to black-market music also eagerly feed on the wide variety of musical entertainment offered at home. "They don't do very much dancing and they don't like the fast wild dances that we do."

Protest is
universal

When asked if a sentiment of protest could be felt among the members of the younger generation, Gail affirmed the universality of the conflict generated by the increased demands of a generation which has everyday what was considered luxury in the parents' youth.

"There were long hair and short skirts but not as much as you would see here. I think the Russian family is closer and there is probably more respect for the parents. There's another reason: the children can inherit



photo by Sheila Page

Gail Herzog . . .

"Russians reserved but friendly"

the parents' apartment when they die, so they sort of have to obey."

To American youth, for whom setting up communes and apartments to escape the dependence

"Instant slums"

forced by parental influence is typical of their age group, the value of such guaranteed housing as the inheritance of the parents' flat is perhaps difficult to comprehend. But the vast property damage during the Second World War created a housing problem that production has not been able to solve to the present time. The very large demand for housing, especially in the cities, created what Gail describes as "instant slums."

"All of it is pre-fab and you can drive behind a truck banging down the road with pieces falling off . . . it's already falling apart." Gail noted that often a large family lives in two rooms and the "in the summer the people are always walking around in the city to escape the hot, crowded rooms."

If the housing is difficult to obtain, even more so is the automobile. "Like '54 Fords," Gail describes them. She noted that the demand for automobiles far exceeds the supply and that there is a waiting list that is two years long. Gail pointed out that there is one hope of relief since a Fiat plant is opening a factory in Russia. Gail also said that she had heard that the price of a car in Russia was close to \$6,000.

American
mystique

But it is the big American car, Gail found, that captures the Russian imagination. "One time a man came up to me and asked

where a certain person's house was, 'the one with the American car.' And anywhere there is an American's car there is a group of Russians standing all around it, looking over it, in under it . . . and taking anything they can get."

There are other basic goods for which the demand exceeds the supply, resulting in high prices. Gail described clothes as one such commodity.

"They have really nice looking dresses in the stores and magazines but you can't always buy them. For instance, at a fashion show, while the model is showing off the dress you'll see people sitting there with notebooks or pads drawing the design. You can get the material, but you have to make it yourself, since they aren't always available in the stores."

When articles of clothing are available, they are expensive. "For instance, I saw a nice looking knit, sleeveless dress, with a turtleneck, and it cost 60 rubles, at about \$1.00 to a ruble."

No hunger

While the production was behind demands for housing and many consumer goods, Gail felt it evident that there was no hunger problem and food was available to all, even though its quality might not rate very high by American standards.

Gail's own opinion of the food quality changed, however, when she returned for her second summer. "Our maid, a Russian, once said to me 'I know you're used to more refined food but we're improving,' and I agree with her. When I went back the next summer I thought it was much better on the whole."

Senate

from SENATE, page 2

Sherry Burke, representative of YWCA informed senators of the World University Service drive. This service aids in providing essentials to Latin American villages as well as providing aid to fellow college students.

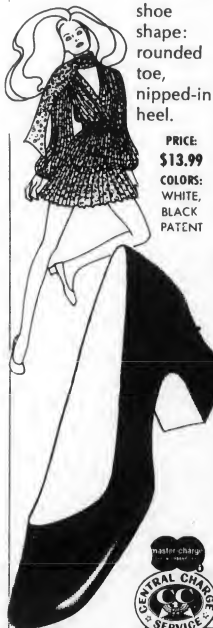
Senator Pixie Gaiety made a motion not to accept support of the drive. The motion died through lack of a second. Senator Jody Reed made a motion that the Senate support the WUS drive which was seconded and passed.

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Yugoslavian student compares east and west education systems

by Ann Moran

Chemistry is Renata Slijepcevic's major at MWC as it was at the Technological Faculty of the University of Zagreb in Yugoslavia which she attended prior to her transfer here this semester.

Renata admits that, even though her chemistry courses at MWC differ in their organization from the schedule which she followed at the University in Zagreb, the biggest change for her has been the different way of student life.

Renata's family recently moved from Yugoslavia to Alexandria, Va., where her father is a physician. She has a sister attending high school in Alexandria who has helped to familiarize Renata even more with the American school system and compare it with the Yugoslav.

The school career of a Yugoslav child, she explains, begins at seven years of age. For the next eight years he attends elementary school, after which he spends four more in high school.

After the second year in high school, the student makes the choice to join one of two groups: those whose studies emphasize the sciences and those whose interests are in the arts. This early division performs a double function; the last two years of high school prepare the student for the completion of his studies at a University, which takes another four years, or at a technical school for two years.

"In high school everybody tries for the university," Renata says, "but since they can't take everybody, only those who pass the exam go to the university."

Renata further explains that a university education, like all prior education, is tuition-free and thus a student's economic status does not interfere with his chances of entering a university.

"The exams are very hard," she says, "and of course there are poor students who pass them. It all depends on if you have the marks." Furthermore, other school expenses, such as for books, are minimized by government subsidies.

The differences between her classes at the university's chemistry division and her classes at MWC are mostly differences of organization, she finds. At the University, for example, the "chemistry courses were not so varied," Renata said, and explained that the material taught in the classes here were included in one of two Yugoslavian courses divided only broadly into organic and inorganic chemistry.

Renata indicated that these courses at the University were long and thorough. Class lectures, given to about 200 or 300 students at a time, are held in the morning from about 8 a.m. until noon. Laboratory work is done during the afternoon sessions starting at 2 and lasting until 7 or 8 p.m. Renata did not seem to enjoy this aspect of her classes at Zagreb because the five-hour labs were exhausting, "and you can't sit for very long, since you always have to get up to fetch this or that. It was a very long day." She also points out that the various faculties (about 50 of the University of Zagreb) are located in different towns, and "when we had to go to another school, for example at the electro-technical faculty, we had to go to another town, which was sometimes difficult."

The exam procedure is quite different also, Renata says. "The exam is oral, but before the oral exam you have to pass a written one. You are then questioned orally by three professors and you have three chances to make it. If you fail on the third try, then you have failed the course."

Renata points out that, unlike the procedure here, you cannot repeat a course you have failed. She also explains that during the course of the semester, "you have the colloquies. Each week, for about 15 minutes, you talk with the professor and answer his questions. You have two chances to answer correctly and then receive a grade."

Despite the differences in the academic program, Renata feels that the biggest change for her was in the student way of life.

"I think the biggest difference is living in the dormitories. I really like that here, with all the people here." She explains that, although the Yugoslav universities have dormitory facilities for students who must come a great distance from their homes to study, these students are not numerous. Since the many different faculties are located each in different towns, the students can either live at home, as Renata had done, or live in the town and attend the University.

Nevertheless, the universities in Yugoslavia provide students with opportunities to share their common interests in areas not strictly academic, through interest clubs and such activities as trips to other countries, other universities, etc.

The student government in the university is an integral part of student life there. Not only is there a student government for each of the University's divisions, but also a government made up of representatives from each of the divisions.

Renata says that these student governments seem to be able to handle the demands of the students and there is no need for "protest" as we know it here. Student concern with the academic requirements and opportunities, as well as rules and regulations and other aspects of student life, are voiced freely at the student government meetings.

We can say whatever we want and they listen, Renata claims, and adds that, except for the few students who ask for really radical and "impossible" changes, an attempt is usually made to satisfy any legitimate demands.



photo by Sheila Page

Renata Slijepcevic . . .

ambassador from Yugoslavia

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D.C. African exhibit unique, impressive

by Paddy Link

An impressive exhibit of African art is on display now at the National Gallery of Art. Bronze and wooden artifacts of a culture that is virtually unknown to Western man fill four rooms at the Gallery.

Many factors make this exhibit unique. A highly refined bronze casting technique was used to mold many of the figures. Most of them were created during the "dark ages" of Europe before white men had any notions of proselytizing the "savages." These naturalistic art objects apparently had functional use in several highly developed cultures. The masks were used in tribal dances and provided the dancers with an embodiment of the spirit they portrayed. Such masks have provided inspiration to modern art,

particularly to the works of Picasso.

A viewer will notice the diversification of style in the exhibit as a whole. Although a few miles apart, many of the tribes had no communication with one another. This isolation provided for an art form that was truly endemic to each tribe.

It is remarkable that these figures have survived, especially those made of wood. One problem the African tribes had in common were wood-devouring ants. These ants kept the native artists carving, and thus helped perfect styles and techniques that have now survived hundreds of years.

This well-displayed exhibit of black culture should not be missed. It is a culture whose understanding is enigmatic but important to Western man.

book review

Bernadette Devlin's life: "a good and honest tale"

By SHARON COOKE
College Press Service

The autobiography of a 22-year-old is a suspicious undertaking no matter who is the author. One can rightly question the author's ability to perceive the subject matter clearly. To stand back at a distance far enough to see what is relevant and what is irrelevant, what is true and what is false. But Bernadette Devlin is exceptional in many ways, not the least of which is her ability to tell a good and an honest tale.

The Price of My Soul (which refers not to the price at which she is willing to sell out, but the price she is willing to pay not to) is a charming and readable account of Bernadette and her struggles, her spunky Irishness, her dedication, her intelligence, her roots and family. It is not the work of a brilliant, radical philosopher, and belongs on the shelf not so much next to Marx or even Cohn-Bendit, but rather next to Shaw's Major Barbara. She chronicles her life from her birth as third in a very poor family of six children, her early learning to disregard popular opinion, her education, her political awakening and growth, and finally to her somewhat farcical election to the Mother of Parliaments. Despite some major faults as far as what has been omitted in the way of solid ideological and sociological thinking, every page of the book is packed with Bernadette's compelling charm, intelligence, and honesty.

The book is valuable, if for no other reason, because for once the issues, events and history of the uprisings in Northern Ireland are made crystal clear to American readers, a job which heretofore has been bungled in the usual way by the American press. The issues, as Bernadette sees them, are more basic than those which have propelled American students of late. They are jobs for heads of families, tighter controls on the exploits of British

and American business interests, less of the most blatant kinds of political oppression. An advanced and comprehensive state of socialism is an important future goal, but employment seems to be the most pressing immediate issue.

Bernadette tells of going through the process of collecting eye-witness accounts of a kicking she received from a cop during a demonstration and the tiling of a formal complaint. She was spitting mad at the offender until she took her complaint down to the barracks and discovered that other complaints had been lodged against him, and Bernadette's would see him fired. "And such was the state of my political development at the time," she says. "That ignorant thug that he was, I couldn't see the point of adding to Northern Ireland's unemployment. I took my statement home again, and until such time as he kicked someone else, he probably remained in the police force."

The direct relevance of the struggles in Ireland to student revolts may be minimal. The climax of the Industrial Revolution—uncontrolled technology accompanied by unbridled power in a giant world-wide web—may have been Daniel Cohn-Bendit's motivation in France, but not Bernadette Devlin's in Ireland. To a Marxist who "started each speech with 'This reminds me of the Sorbonne . . .'" Bernadette and her friends "roared back 'Never mind the Sorbonne—We're interested in the slums of Belfast.'"

She has had trouble adjusting to Parliament and its pomp and circumstance, and they to her: "Some of them are indulgent about my running up the stairs and whistling in the corridors, but there's a general feeling that I ought to have more respect for the dignity of Parliament; ought not to be impatient with the pomp and ceremony and time wasted for 'Hats off, strangers! Here comes the speaker!' I always

think of Lord of the Flies when they trot in with the Mace. 'I've got the conch'; there's no doubt about it."

She has had some trouble adjusting to the fame her election has attracted and to the somewhat peculiar attentions of her fans:

"I was asked to ring the international operator: a call from America had been booked and paid for. Thinking it had to be important if a call from halfway around the world had been paid for, I rang the operator and got routed through to Mrs. Typical Yank, who says, 'Well! Ah just wanted to get speaking to the real Bernadette Devlin!' And that's all she wanted to say! Then she puts her family on to say 'Hello!' It was the biggest circus in creation, as far as I could see." And of course we're all happy to know that Mrs. Typical Yank is still hanging in there, spending her money and keeping up our richly-deserved reputation as the biggest circus in creation.

We see that she is not, as the inane jacket copy states, "one of the most extraordinary political figures of the day." Extraordinary political figures are the likes of the men who engineered John Lindsay's election last fall and Nixon's election and who would have gotten McCarthy elected if it hadn't been for the candidate, and who needs them? No, Bernadette is not a political figure at all.

She realizes exactly how much she can and can't do to remedy the fundamental problems of Northern Ireland, and she realizes that it may have been a mistake to dupe her constituents into thinking that making Parliament work for them was only a matter of putting the right person in office. "I can get a post box for Slate Quarry. Slate Quarry is a small dying village, the least of whose worries but the only one I can help with, is the absence of a post box. If you work it out, the biggest economic scandal in Britain is that someone can earn (her salary) a year for getting three fishing licenses, one clear-way to a garage, and a couple of telephone kiosks."

Bernadette pledges that she's going to leave Parliament (after getting out of jail first, I suppose) and keep fighting the battle where it must be fought, where it counts—in the streets of Belfast. And one day the hated Unionist rule and the social order it has created will go down for the last time. "For half a century it has misgoverned us, but it is on the way out. Now we are witnessing its dying convulsions. And with traditional Irish mercy, when we've got it down we will kick it into the ground."

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